

CLAIMS

1. A material processing system for processing material including a watermark, the system comprising a remover for removing the watermark, a processor for processing the material from which the watermark has been removed, and an inserter for inserting a watermark into the processed material.
2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the processor has a user interface for controlling the processes performed thereby.
3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the remover and the inserter are arranged to operate automatically and independently of the user.
4. A system according to claim 1, 2, or 3, further comprising a database processor linked to the remover, the database processor containing data enabling the removal of the watermark from the material to be processed.
5. A system according to claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising a database processor linked to the inserter, the database processor containing data enabling insertion of the watermark into the processed material.
6. A system according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the said enabling data includes an encryption key.
7. A system according to claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein the inserter and the remover are linked to the database processor by a communications link.
8. A system according to claim 7, wherein the communications link includes the internet.
9. A system according to any preceding claims arranged to check the authenticity of the said material including the reversible watermark.
10. A system according to claim 9, arranged to disable the said processor if the material fails the authenticity check.
11. A method of processing material including a watermark, comprising the steps of:
removing the watermark;

processing the material from which the watermark has been removed using a processor; and
inserting a watermark into the processed material.

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12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the steps of removing and inserting are automatic and independent of a user of the processor.
13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the removal and insertion are hidden from the user.
14. A method according to claim 11, 12 or 13, further comprising retrieving from a database data enabling the removal of the watermark included in the material to be processed.
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15. A method according to claim 11, 12 or 13, further comprising retrieving from a database data enabling the insertion of a watermark into the processed material.
16. A method according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the said enabling data includes an encryption key.
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17. A method according to claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the enabling data is retrieved via a communications link.
18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the communications link includes the internet.
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19. A method according to any one of claims 11 to 18, comprising the steps of checking the authenticity of the said material including the reversible watermark.
20. A method according to claim 19, comprising the steps of disabling the processing of the material if the material fails the authenticity check.
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21. A method of removing data embedded in material comprising the steps of: receiving material in which data is embedded; accessing an information store storing information enabling the data to be removed; and removing the said data using the enabling data accessed from the store.
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22. A method comprising the steps of: embedding data in material; and storing, in an information store, information for enabling the data to be removed from the material.

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23. Apparatus for removing data embedded in material comprising: an input for receiving material in which data is embedded; an information store for storing information enabling the data to be removed; and a remover arranged to remove the said data using the enabling data accessed from the store.
24. Apparatus comprising: an embedder for embedding data in material; a store for storing information for enabling the data to be removed from the material.
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25. Apparatus according to claim 23 further comprising a generator for generating the enabling information.
26. Apparatus or method according to any preceding claim, wherein the material is one or more of video material, audio material and data material.
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27. A computer program product arranged to carry out the method of any one of claims 11 to 22 when run on a programmable digital signal processor.
28. A storage medium storing a computer program product according to claim 27.
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29. A method of processing material substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 optionally as modified by: Figures 2 and 3; Figure 4, Figure 5; and/or Figures 6 and 7 of the accompanying drawings.
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30. Apparatus for processing material substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 optionally as modified by: Figures 2 and 3; Figure 4, Figure 5; and/or Figures 6 and 7 of the accompanying drawings.